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PATENT
CASE NO. 2002P00329US

6/A
5-B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:

Andrew Li et al.

Serial No.: 10/080,367

Filed: February 20, 2002

For: AUTOMATIC ULTRASOUND TRANSMIT
POWER SETTING METHOD AND SYSTEM

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) Examiner: Ali Imam
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) Group: 3737
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RESPONSE, AMENDMENT AND PETITION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 12, 2003, please enter the following amendment and consider the following remarks:

AMENDMENT

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 8, line 25-page 9, line 3 as follows:

The noise images may (1) be acquired by imaging without insonification, i.e. with the transmitters turned off (see the discussion in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,120,446 or 6,423,003), or (2) be estimated by using the known differences in bandwidth and/or spatial or temporal correlation lengths of the signal and noise (see the discussions in U.S. Patent Nos. _____ and _____ (Application Serial Nos. 09/430,591 and 09/431,304) or (3) be computed using a system noise model based on a set of currently prevailing imaging parameters (see the discussion in U.S. Patent No. 6,120,446). All of these patents are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. The methods described above for acquiring noise images may be combined in various ways, and other methods can be used.

Please rewrite claim 10 as follows:

10. (amended) An ultrasound system for automatically determining a transmitter power level, the system comprising:
- a transmitter responsive to a transmit power level; and
 - a processor operative to set the transmit power level as a function of a noise level and a lowest value of a display dynamic range.

REMARKS

The amendments to the rewritten paragraph and claim are shown in the attached Appendix. In the Appendix, additions are underlined and deletions are indicated with brackets.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification due to missing patent numbers corresponding to the provided application serial numbers. Claims 1-24 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,854). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-24, including independent claims 1, 10, 16, 24 and 24.

The specification has been corrected to the extent that patent numbers are available. If the Examiner is aware of the issuance of other of the applications, the Examiner is requested to enter the patent numbers by Examiner's amendment.